

I Claim:

1 1. A ticket counter comprising:
2 a transport mechanism for transporting tickets from an inlet, past a sensor, said
3 transport mechanism maintaining contact with the tickets while exposing an outer
4 edge of the tickets;
5 a sensor adjacent the transport mechanism and positioned to read the exposed
6 outer edge of said ticket while said ticket is being transported by the transport
7 mechanism, the sensor determining a quantity of tickets transported by the transport
8 mechanism past the sensor and generating a signal corresponding to said quantity;
9 a computer in communication with said sensors for receiving said signal from
10 the sensor; and
11 a printer connected to said computer for printing the quantity of tickets
12 transported by the transport mechanism past the sensor.

1 2. The ticket counter of claim 1 wherein the transport mechanism transports
2 tickets of paper.

1 3. The ticket counter of claim 1 wherein the transport mechanism transports
2 tickets of varying widths and lengths.

1 5. The ticket counter of claim 4 wherein the display screen displays animation
2 while the tickets are being transported by the transport mechanism.

1 7. The ticket counter of claim 4 wherein the display screen displays
2 advertisement.

1 8. The ticket counter of claim 4 wherein the display screen displays a game of
2 dexterity while the tickets are being transported by the transport mechanism, said
3 ticket counter further comprising input means to allow a user to participate in the
4 game of dexterity.

1 9. The ticket counter of claim 1 wherein the computer records information
2 encoded on the tickets.

1 11. The ticket counter of claim 9 wherein the information encoded on the tickets
2 includes a time that the tickets were distributed.

1 13. The ticket counter of claim 1 further comprising a ticket shredding mechanism
2 for destroying the tickets transported by the transport mechanism past the sensor.

1 14. The ticket counter of claim 1, wherein the sensor detects light passing through
2 the tickets.

1 15. The ticket counter of claim 1, wherein the sensor interprets bar codes
2 imprinted on the tickets.

1 21. The ticket counter of claim 20 wherein the counting markers correspond to a
2 geometric shape spanning two adjacent tickets and bisected by perforations separating
3 the two adjacent tickets.

1 22. The ticket counter of claim 20 wherein the counting markers are imprinted
2 with an opaque ink.

1 23. The ticket counter of claim 20, wherein the counting markers occur on a
2 common edge of the tickets with a bar code imprinted on the tickets.

1 24. The ticket counter of claim 1 further comprising an optical sensor for actuating
2 the transport mechanism upon detection of a ticket at the inlet.

1 25. The ticket counter of claim 1 further comprising a second sensor to read an
2 opposite side of the tickets while the tickets are transported by the transport
3 mechanism.

1 26. The ticket counter of claim 1 further comprising user input means for
2 terminating the ticket counting process and initiating a receipt print operation.

1 27. The ticket counter of claim 1 further comprising data transmitting means for
2 transmitting data recorded by the computer to a remote computer.

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